

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 152

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach Sytia Messer and the Tennessee Technological University Golden Eagles women's basketball team on winning the 2011 Ohio Valley Conference regular season championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is proud to salute the accomplishments of the State's great collegiate athletic teams, those that work hard, make the necessary sacrifices, achieve success, and provide entertainment for large numbers of fans; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Technological University Golden Eagles women's basketball team is one such estimable team; under the capable direction of Head Coach Sytia Messer, the Golden Eagles recently vanquished the Jacksonville State Gamecocks to win the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) regular season championship; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles women's basketball team (22-6, 15-3), behind an impressive scoring performance and dominating defensive effort, defeated the Jacksonville Gamecocks decisively, 63-50; the victory earned the Golden Eagles their sixteenth regular season OVC basketball crown and the number one seed in the OVC tournament; and

WHEREAS, junior guard Tacarra Hayes led the way to victory with twenty-three points and seven assists, scoring seventeen points in the first half as Tech took control of the contest; Hayes scored the first four points for Tennessee Tech, followed by baskets from freshman Briana Jordan and Molly Heady, giving the Golden Eagles a quick 8-2 advantage; and

WHEREAS, maintaining their focus and stretching their lead in the second half, the Golden Eagles finished with a dominating display of their basketball talent; Tennessee Tech made numerous layups in the second half as Miss Hayes and Miss Heady helped build the lead up to eleven in the second stanza; and

WHEREAS, the Gamecocks used a 7-0 run to creep to within three points with thirteen minutes remaining; however, the valiant Golden Eagles answered with a Kylie Cook layup, a basket by Jordan, and back-to-back 3-pointers by Rachel Glidden and Kellie Cook to push the Tennessee Tech advantage to thirteen with over nine minutes to play; and

WHEREAS, Miss Hayes put the finishing touches on the victory with a little over one minute to play by making one of two free throw attempts, giving the Golden Eagles their first outright championship since the 2000-2001 season; and

WHEREAS, the triumph was especially rewarding for Head Coach Sytia Messer, who has expertly molded the natural talent of the players into a championship caliber team; this monumental conquest marked Coach Messer's first OVC crown, in only her second season at Tennessee Tech; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding young women of the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles are: Katherine Barker, Kellie Cook, Kylie Cook, Brittany Darling, Lashay Davis, Rachel Glidden, Tacarra Hayes, Molly Heady, Diamond Henderson, Tiara Hopper, Briana Jordan, Keisha Moore, Candace Parson, and Krystal Stirrup; and

WHEREAS, Coach Messer was aided in her leadership by a trio of highly capable assistant coaches, Coretta Brown, Steve Wallace, and Stacey Franklin; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Tech women's basketball players epitomize all that is good in the ideal student-athlete; they have represented their school, community and the State of Tennessee in fine fashion, displaying peerless character both on and off the basketball court; and

WHEREAS, during this incredible championship season, the Golden Eagles have etched their names onto the hearts of Tennesseans and into the annals of Tennessee sports history; their dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent not only made possible a successful and memorable basketball season, but also surely point toward their success in future endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Head Coach Sytia Messer and the

Tennessee Technological University Golden Eagles women's basketball team on winning the Ohio Valley Conference regular season championship and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.